THE *Unfortunate Maid* exemplified,

In the STORY of

ELIZABETH CANNING

VINDICATED

From every MEAN ASPERSION thrown upon it.

To which is added,

A full ANSWER to a certain Pamphlet

INTITLED

Miſs CANNING and the GIPSY.

TOGETHER WITH

REFLECTIONS on the Conduct of Sir CRISP GASCOYNE, recommended to *Canning*'s Friends in particular, and to the Publick in general.

The whole concluding with

A DISSERTATION on the dreadful End of a perjur'd Sinner.

By an impartial Hand.

LONDON:

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THE

Unfortunate MAID, &c.

IT is ſurpriſing, that among a People, zealous of Juſtice, Liberty and Honour, ſhould be found ſo great a Number of Men, who, cowardlike, derogate, from theſe three Qualities, peculiar to a *Britiſh* Mind. The Story of *Elizabeth Canning* affords an inconteſtable, but ſhameful Example of the Truth of this Remark; the many Lies and cruel Aſſertions, unworthy of human Nature, and of that ſupreme Rank, wherein God has placed Man, above all his other Creatures, which have been propagated throughout the Nation, concerning this poor unfortunate Woman, give us an ample Proof, how ſubject Mankind is to Bribery and Corruption, and what Slaves we are in general to Riches and our own Conceit; many of them are ſo contradictory to each other, and ſo contrary to what has really happened, that

it is no Wonder the major Part have already incurred a publick Infamy, and the ſure Deſerts of wicked and defamatory Lampoons.

The publick Papers have been crowded with nothing ſcarce but repeated Injuries and malicious Thoughts againſt this poor Girl; a Stream, almoſt innumerable, of Pamphlets are iſſued out, all tending, not only to aggravate her ſuppoſed Crime, but to ſnatch from her, even the Hopes of ever enjoying his Majeſty's Royal Clemency; a certain Author, well known under the Name of the *Inſpector*, has particularly diſtinguiſhed himſelf by his continual Adherence on the Side of the Gypſy, and by uſing all the Means that could poſſibly lay in his Power, to blaſten her Honour, Virtue and Reputation, and to ſow a Diſcord betwixt her and all Mankind, by endeavouring to give her, as a Woman, void of Honeſty and good Behaviour, who knows no Religion, but Infamy, ſacred to Drunkenneſs, and Luxury, Sin and Perdition, and capable of all the Vices, that can make a Man ſink below the Degree of an Animal; the very leaſt Accident that could give Room for Cenſure, he has miſinterpreted and laid to her Charge, and by this wicked and malicious Character of her, has endeavoured, with many others, to put a deadly Spot to that, which her Friends, who are Men of reputed Honour and Veracity, have given her; her Family has always been famed for Honeſty and Virtue, and all the worthy Perſons, with whom ſhe had lived, have expreſſed the higheſt Concern for her whilſt abſent, and the tendereſt Regard when returned; her Perſon is the Picture of Modeſty, her Appearance that of Innocence, and her Countenance that of Simplicity;

Simplicity. Whereas, on the other Side, the Gypſy publickly declares herſelf a Member among a People, who has always been the Rebuke of all Nations, famous for Cruelty and Outrages, Murder and Thefts, Proſtitute to Sin and Slavery, and a mortal Enemy both to God and Man, whoſe Character her own Friends have never dared to bring upon the Carpet, and which would never have been able to withſtand a ſtrict Enquiry. Her Evidences have oft contradicted each other; the Account her Son gave of their Journey to *Abbotſbury* was variable, he hardly gave any ſatisfactory Anſwers, nor could tell the Name of the Places he went through, or laid at. Upon the whole, that there are falſe Witneſſes on one Side or other is unqueſtionable, for at the ſame Time *Canning* and her Friends ſwear, that *Squires* was ſeen throughout *December* and *January* at *Endfield*, the latter and her Evidences affirm, ſhe was at *Abbotſbury*, &c. at that Time, and to unfold the Truth has puzzled the ableſt Lawyers, and even the King's Council to determine. A Trial began at length at the *Old-Bailey*, the 29*th* of *April*, 1754, wherein *Elizabeth Canning* ſtood indicted for wilful and corrupt Perjury, in falſly ſwearing a Robbery againſt *Mary Squires* a Gypſy, the Evidence ſhe gave, and the Story of her unparallelled Misfortunes is too well known, and has too much engroſſed the Attention of the Publick, for me to expatiate long upon it. Therefore I ſhall lay the whole, in brief, before the Reader, and then proceed to the Vindication of that unhappy Girl, which is the Subject of this Work; may Heaven guide my Pen, ſo that I may never ſwerve from the Dictates of my Heart, and truly ſhew in all my Words, the noble End, which has been the

Cauſe

Cauſe of this Diſcourſe, that as no worldly Intereſt is concerned in it, ſo I may be able to perſuade Mankind, my chief and only Deſign has been to protect the Innocent, and to ſet up in behalf of a poor helpleſs Orphan, who has ſuffered the moſt cruel Injuries, to ſtrengthen her Friends in her Favour, and to join to theirs, my utmoſt Endeavours, to ſave her from Ruin and Infamy. *Amen.*

On *Monday* the firſt of *January*, 1753, *Elizabeth Canning* went to ſee an Uncle and Aunt, who are People of good Character, and eſteemed by all the Neighbourhood, living at *Salt-petre Bank*, near *Roſemary-Lane*, where ſhe ſtaid till about Nine in the Evening, and it being late, her Uncle and Aunt condeſcended to walk a great Part of the Way Home with her, then ſhe parted with them and came oppoſite *Bethlehem-Gate* in *Moor-Fields*, where ſhe was ſeized by two Men, who robbed her of Half a Guinea in Gold, three Shillings in Silver, her Hat, Gown and Apron, and then violently dragged her into the Gravel-Walk that leads down to the Gate of *Bethlehem* Hoſpital, about the Middle of which, one of the Men threatned to do for her, and violently ſtruck her with his Fiſt on the right Temple, which Blow threw her into a Fit, and entirely deprived her of her Senſes; ſhe ſays, ſhe is ſubject to theſe Fits, firſt occaſioned by the Fall of a Cieling upon her Head, and that they often return upon her, whenever ſhe is frightened, or in a Surprize, and oftentimes continue for ſix or ſeven Hours. When ſhe came to herſelf, ſhe perceived the two Men dragged her along, in a large Road-way, and ſoon after ſhe was able to walk alone; but they continued to pull her

along

along with ſuch hard Uſage, that ſhe durſt neither ſpeak to them or call out. About half an Hour after the Recovery of her Senſes they came into a Houſe, where ſhe ſaw in the Kitchen an old Gypſy Woman and two young Women; the old Gypſy Woman then took her by the Hand, and promiſed to giver her fine Cloaths, provided ſhe would go their Way, which Expreſſion ſhe conſtrued to mean the becoming a Proſtitute, and utterly refuſed to comply with; upon which the Gypſy took a Knife out of a Drawer, and cut the Stays of *Elizabeth Canning*, and took them away, and one of the Men likewiſe took off her Cap, and then went away. Afterwards the Gypſy forced her up an old Stair-Caſe, and puſhed her into a Back-room, threatening, that if ſhe made the leaſt Noiſe, ſhe would come up and cut her Throat, after which ſhe faſtened the Door on the outſide and went away.

And when it was Day-light, upon her looking round, to ſee in what diſmal Place ſhe was confined, ſhe diſcovered a large black Jug, with the Neck much broken, full of Water, and ſeveral Pieces of Bread, about the Quantity of a Quartern-Loaf, ſcattered on the Floor, where was alſo ſome Hay. She continued in this Room the Space of twenty-ſeven Days, with no other Suſtenance than the aforeſaid Food, and a ſmall minc'd Pye, ſhe intended to have carried to her little Brother; of which Proviſion ſhe had ſome Part remaining at the Time ſhe made her Eſcape thro' a Window of the Loft, where ſhe was confined, and thereby got back to her Mother's in *London*, in a moſt weak and miſerable Condition, almoſt ſtarved to Death, and never once ſtopped at any Houſe or Place

ſoever

ſoever in the Way; ſhe farther ſays, that no Perſon whatever came to aſk her any Queſtions during her Confinement; nor did ſhe ſee any one belonging to the Houſe except once, as ſhe was walking along the Room, ſhe perceived one of the Women peep'd through the Key-Hole, but ſhe was afraid to call or ſpeak to any one, and that ſhe never once went to Stool, but only made Water.

Upon the Return of *Elizabeth Canning*, and the Account ſhe gave her Friends of her Sufferings, they, fired with Indignation and Reſentment, raiſed a Contribution among themſelves, in order to bring the Perpetrators of this inhuman Deed to Juſtice. Accordingly, after ſhe was ſomewhat recovered and able to bear the Journey, her Friends, with proper Officers, conveyed her along the *Hertford* Road, where *Canning* judged ſhe had been confined, by having ſeen at a Diſtance from the Loft the *Hertford* Stage-Coach go by, which her Miſtreſs (Mrs. *Wintlebury*) uſed to go in, and which ſhe knew, by carrying Things to it, and fetching them back again. When they arrived at the Houſe, ſhe viewed all the Family before her, and pitched upon the Gypſy, who is as remarkable a Creature as any upon Earth, for the Perſon who had robbed her; ſhe charged alſo *Virtue Hall*, as a Woman there preſent, when ſhe was firſt brought in; this Woman was the chief Evidence in behalf of *Canning*, but ſhe afterwards recanted, for what Cauſe I'll not take upon me to determine; ſure it is, that this Woman could aſſign no juſt Reaſon why ſhe gave her Evidence in Favour of *Canning* at firſt, it could not be Self-Intereſt that induced her to it, ſince it ſeems they were wholly

wholly unacquainted, and never had any private Converſation together, be this as it will, we cannot rely on the Oath of a notorious and common Proſtitute, who gives her Evidence, on one Side to Day, and for a Sixpenny-piece conſtrues it on the other To-morrow.

Such is the Caſe of *Elizabeth Canning*, and well may I remark, with the ingenious Mr. *Fielding*, "ſo extraordinary it is, that it rather reſembles a wild Dream than a real Fact;" but I, with all the Publick, nay farther, with all the Advocates for the Gypſy, am well enough ſatisfied there is no Impoſſibility in it, and this granted, I am allow'd to proceed to the Vindication of the Truth of the Fact, and when it will be duly conſidered what a Degree of Cruelty ſome Men have aſcended to, we ſhall the more readily admit all the Reaſons that can be given to prove the Uſage *Canning* has received, to have been perpetrated, by Perſons who delight in, and feed themſelves with Deeds of Cruelty and Barbarity.

It is reaſonable to be ſuppoſed that the Deſign of the two Men who ſeized *Canning*, had been premeditated, not, perhaps againſt her, but againſt the firſt unhappy Girl that ſhould fall into their Clutches, whom they had before reſolved to conduct to *Mary Squires*, in Order to make of her a Gypſy or a Proſtitute.

I have already given an Account of her Character, and for further Particulars refer the Reader to what Mr. *Fielding* has wrote concerning it; that Gentleman has ſhewn, throughout his Diſcourſe, that Deſire, to protect the innocent, and lovely

Tenderneſs we ought to feel for our Neighbour, which is well known to thoſe, who have the Happineſs of his Acquaintance; many have attempted to anſwer the Reaſons he has alledged, amongſt which, is ranked a Gentleman, well known to the learned World, *but I dare venture to aſſert, none has been able to ſhake that Solidity, acquired by a virtuous Turn of Mind, and a mature Deliberation.

I have ſaid before, that the Evidence of *Squires* was contradictory, and ſhall now further prove it to have been ſo. All thoſe, who have ſworn, in Behalf of *Canning*, are Men, whoſe Truth and Honour is well known to all their Neighbours; whereas thoſe who have given their Evidence for *Squires*, are, for the major Part, Perſons whoſe Honour, Truth, Character, and Reputation is ſuſpected. Her Witneſſes are compoſed of her own Children, and others, with whom, it ſeems, ſhe had been particularly acquainted before, and ſtill theſe very Creatures varied in what they depoſed, particularly at the Circumſtance of *Squires*'s wading through the Flood at *Dorcheſter*, ſeen to do ſo by a Miller, who declared it upon Oath: Whereas *George Squires* affirmed that he carried her over (the ſaid Flood) upon his Shoulders. I leave to my candid Reader, to reflect upon the Abſurdity of this Depoſition, and ſeriouſly to conſider all the other Particulars mentioned in her Behalf.

The Witneſſes for *Canning* declare, that *Mary Squires* the Gypſy was at *Enfield* throughout *December* and *January*; that ſhe unfolded to ſeveral Perſons their Fortune, many of which ſwore it before the Court, and not one has yet been known to vary from his firſt Account.

* Dr. *Hill* famous for his many Writings.

I ſhall next ſolve ſome Objections made againſt the Story of *Canning*, in Favour of *Squires*, by ſome of her zealous Advocates, who got them inſerted of late in the publick Papers in the following Manner.

" It is ſurpriſing to ſee the publick Papers ſo crowded every Day, with the Affair of *Canning*, when 'twas moſt evident, upon her Trial,

1. That the Gypſy was innocent, and could not be guilty.

2. That *Canning* was never confin'd at *Wells*'s.

3. That ſhe was not able before Alderman *Chitty* to deſcribe the Room ſhe pretended ſhe had been confined in, or any of its Furniture.

4. That the Account ſhe gave that worthy Magiſtrate, was as good a Deſcription of *Weſtminſter-Hall*, as of her pretended Priſon.

5. That ſhe contradicted herſelf moſt glaringly in the ſeveral Accounts before the various Magiſtrates, and the Court.

6. That when ſhe was in the Kitchen at Mother *Wells*'s, on the firſt of *February*, ſhe did not know the Way to her pretended Priſon, although the Door leading into it was open.

7. That ſhe was afterwards taken round the Houſe, to find out her Priſon, and unluckily pitch'd upon the wrong Stair-caſe."

The firſt Objection ariſes from the Sum of all the reſt, for when we have proved *Canning* to be innocent, it will then follow, that the Gypſy is guilty.

2. If *Canning* was never confined at *Wells*'s, how came ſhe to deſcribe the Pitcher, the Loft, a Proſpect from the Window, and many other Particulars too tedious to relate, mentioned by her upon her Return Home? It may be ſaid, ſhe had been in the Houſe before; but *Wells* ſwore, ſhe had never been there, and as poſitively declared, ſhe had never ſeen her Face.

3. That ſhe was not able, before Alderman *Chitty*, to deſcribe the Room ſhe pretended to have been confined in, or any of its Furniture. And

4. That the Account ſhe gave was as good a Deſcription of *Weſtminſter-Hall*, as of her pretended Priſon.

Whoever is the Author of theſe two Objections, I heartily congratulate him upon his Wit, and really believe him to be as good a Friend to *Canning*, as any ſhe has; one, who endeavours by rotten Objections, to ſhew the Weakneſs of *Squires*'s Evidence; in my humble Opinion, I think ſhe deſcribed it better than the Owners thereof, for theſe contradicted each other, upon a Picture ſaid to be over the Chimney, and did not *Canning* mention that Picture, the Pitcher, the Hay, the Chimney, &c. which in reality was all the Furniture that enriched this noble Apartment, and, as for other Particulars, were it granted, ſhe did not anſwer them all, can it be ſuppoſed, that, a Girl ſurrounded

ſurrounded with all the Horrors of Miſery, the Terrors of Famine painted upon the Floor, the dreadful Shape of Deſpair roving in her Mind, the Pangs of Madneſs, and the Image of Death preſenting itſelf on every Side; can it be ſuppoſed, I ſay, that ſhe ſhould be able, at this Time, to take an exact Deſcription of every Object that offered itſelf to her View? And that a Youth whoſe Thoughts are all employed by Miſery, ſhould even conſider that it would be required of her to give an Account of the Place to the minuteſt Circumſtance? And ſo much for the four firſt Objections, as to the

5. It is falſe, the ſeveral Accounts ſhe gave before the various Magiſtrates, amounted to the ſame Purport, and vary'd not, in any Thing, that could bear the leaſt Prejudice to the Truth of her Story.

And for the Sixth, is it ſurpriſing, that a Perſon who had been but once in the Kitchen at Mother *Wells*'s, and that at a dark Time of Night, ſhould have ſome Difficulty to find the Way to the Place, wherein ſhe had been puſh'd in a Hurry, and when the Fright ſhe was in, hardly left her any Room to think on any Thing but the Misfortune that attended her; beſides, all the Advocates for *Squires* own, that ſhe holds to her firſt Account without Variation, the Reaſon of which, they conclude to be, becauſe ſhe had been in the Houſe before; hence it is evident, that ſhe muſt have been there, and conſequently we cannot attribute her Impoſſibility to find her Priſon, to the Ignorance ſhe had of the Place.

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In regard to the ſeventh and laſt Objection, ſuppoſe it to be true; for my Part, I believe it highly inconſiſtent with Reaſon to think that a Perſon ſhould be able, on being taken round a Houſe to diſcover the Way to a Room, where ſhe had been confined in the ſame, and more ſo, as it appears from the Reaſons before-mentioned, that ſhe had never ſeen it, but at the Time ſhe was carried in, which (as I have before obſerved) was at Dead of Night, and when ſhe came out, which was at ſo critical a Time, that we can't ſuppoſe ſhe would ſtand gazing at the Place, and take an exact Review of her Apartment before ſhe parted with it! Such a Suppoſition, in my Mind, cannot but be contrary to the Laws of Nature and Self-Preſervation.

Thus have I ſolved theſe ſeven mighty Objections, which ſucceſſively found a Place in ſeveral publick Papers, and upon the whole, I would adviſe all thoſe who ſtile themſelves *Lovers of Truth*, by making Blunders and weak Defences of the Gypſy, ſeriouſly to reflect upon what they advance, and to weigh their Words before they fall into the Hands of Men, capable to judge of them, and not indulge the vain Thought, that *Canning* has no ſincere Friends but among the vulgar and ignorant Part of Mankind, which ſeems to be the principal Reaſon why we behold the Papers ſwarm with frequent Products of the fertile Brains of theſe *Friends to* Squires *and to Truth.* Among other parabolical Sentences, a Pamphlet fell lately into my Hands, entitled, "Miſs *Canning* and the Gypſy," the Author whereof I ſoon perceived to be a Man, ranked in the Number of *Squires*'s Advocates. Nevertheleſs, the mean Opinion he ſeems

to

to entertain of all Miſs *Canning*'s Friends, without making any Diſtinction whatever, is the principal Reaſon why I have ſtopped upon it, and intend to acquaint him with his Miſtake, and to ſhew here, that among thoſe who ſtand up in Favour of this Girl, there are Men, ſacred to Sincerity and Truth, and whoſe only View is to reward Innocence and detect Guilt. The Queries he propoſes to *Canning*'s Friends, are the only ſupporting Pillars of his Narrative, which, when diſſolved, all the reſt will drop to nothing, and his Diſcourſe no longer will be an Objection to the Truth of the Caſe of this unhappy Girl.

The principal Reaſons I ſhall give for her not eſcaping ſooner, are the Fears of being deteſted in the Fact, and the continual Expectation of ſome Perſon or other coming to let her out, and this will ſufficiently account for his firſt Query.

2. Though the Food and Place ſhe was in were far from being convenient, yet 'twas enough to ſubſiſt ſome Time, and it is no Wonder if Neceſſity compelled a Girl who had been nouriſhed from her Infancy, in a Condition, not altogether contrary to Hardſhip, to accuſtom herſelf to the Slings of Fortune, and to endure the many Ills that attended her; and this is a good Reaſon why ſhe did not eſcape the firſt, ſecond or third Day, after her Confinement. Beſides ſhe tells us, that ſhe did not perceive any ſure Way to extricate herſelf, till Deſpair forced her to reflect upon the Attempt, by which ſhe effected it, and was ſo fortunate as to ſave her Life. Again, if ſhe was an Impoſtor, could ſhe not as well have given out, that ſhe was confined for four, ſix or ten Days,

by

by coming home to her Relations at the Expiration of that Time? But our own Experience ſhews us the moſt improbable Accidents to be often thoſe who bear the greateſt Share of Truth in themſelves.

2. The Gypſy's Motives for ſtripping off her Stays were probably not only to rob her, but to deprive her alſo of all Conveniencies, and to make her undergo the worſt Treatment they could inflict upon her, in order to gain her over to their Purpoſe, which tended to make her a Gypſy, or to debauch her, and theſe were ſurely the beſt Means, ſince Flattery, and *fair Promiſes*, had not been able to prevail over a Girl, who had her Honour and Virtue in Recommendation; and the Reaſon they did not apply to her, was the continual Expectation they might reaſonably be in, ſhe would give them Notice, when ſhe was reſolved to their Purpoſe, ſince it had been ſignified to her, immediately after her coming into the Houſe. I know ſeveral of *Squires*'s Friends can never be prevailed upon to believe, that a Woman of her Condition ſhould prefer her Honour and Reputation to the dreadful End that threatned her; but Hiſtory, and our own Experience affords us many Examples of this Kind; and how often do we hear of Perſons, even of the loweſt Claſs, who have preferred Death, in its moſt frightful Shapes, to an everlaſting Infamy, and when Virtue is deeply engraved in the Mind, her lovely Form appears and comforts us in the moſt imminent Dangers, and oft ſaves us from the frightful Precipices of Ruin.

4. As to the Proofs we have of *Canning*'s being confined at *Wells*'s, ſhe has not only declared it upon

upon Oath, and given us a true and exact Deſcription of the Place, but we have the Pleaſure to find, that *Virtue Hall*, who was preſent when *Canning* firſt came into the Houſe, varied much in her Anſwers, at her firſt Examination before Mr. *Fielding*, but when ſhe came to confeſs the Fact in Behalf of *Canning*, her Account favoured of the Truth, and ſeemed compoſed of more Sincerity than that ſhe had given before, or has ever done ſince her Recanting. In regard to what *Fortunatus* and his Wife ſwear, of their lying in the Room at the Time *Canning* ſays ſhe was confined in the ſame, who will venture to take their Depoſition, who have led a Life devoted to Sin and Infamy, and have always been known, under a ſhameful Character, Friends to Robbers and Gypſies, and Enemies to Mankind and Liberty, whoſe View, in this Affair, tended to the Undoing of an innocent young Perſon, who has always bore a general good Character, and whoſe Honeſty, and that of her Relations, has always been unqueſtionable to this laſt Misfortune, to the endangering of her Life and Liberty, and the Sinking of her Virtue and Reputation among the Sons of Men.

As to a certain Objection made to *Canning*'s Friends, I am very far from endeavouring to vindicate the Conduct of a raſh unthinking Mob, in the Provocations offered to Sir *Criſp Gaſcoigne*; on the Contrary, it would have pleaſed me much, and I heartily would have contributed, if poſſible, to the Detecting of thoſe ſhameleſs Wretches, who deſpiſe every Man, whoſe Opinion is contrary to theirs, and thereby have endeavoured to ſink down the Character of that worthy Magiſtrate, in order

to vindicate the Caſe of *Elizabeth Canning*; any Man who is not quite loſt to himſelf, and to the Dictates of Conſcience, will eaſily perceive, throughout the Proceedings of that great Man, a Deſire to ſave the Life of a Woman, whom he thought innocent, and a Mildneſs of Temper, which ſhone in him during his Mayoralty. I have, always, made it a conſtant Application, to keep ſtrict to the Rules of Common-ſenſe, when guided by Religion and Virtue, and ſhall always think it my chiefeſt Duty, after I have rendered to the *God of my Fathers* the Sacrifice of Praiſe and Thankſgiving that is due to him, to be faithful to my King and Country, ſubject and humble to the higher Powers, and meek and courteous to all Mankind. Theſe Rules I would recommend to all thoſe who have undertaken the Cauſe of *Canning*, as well as to *Squire*'s Friends, as the beſt and proper Means to eſtabliſh a flouriſhing Peace amongſt us, to render ourſelves the Dread and Scourge of our Enemies, to draw the Bleſſings of Heaven upon our Heads here, and to ſecure to ourſelves an everlaſting Crown of Glory hereafter. And as for Sir *Criſp Gaſcoigne*, I think that Gentleman, far from deſerving the Title and Injuries he has undergone, ſhould have received the Thanks and Applauſe of all the Kingdom in general, for the Care he ſhewed of the Life of one of his Majeſty's Subjects, and for his praiſeworthy Deſire to enquire further into the Cauſe of this Affair, before the fatal Blow was ſtruck, and Reputation too late. But his Conduct was miſinterpreted, an unbridled People conſtrued his Deſigns, in a manner, contrary to the View he had propoſed to himſelf, and this has been the principal Source of all the Wrongs that Gentleman has ſuffered; Precautions ſhould

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be taken to prevent the Increaſe of ſuch Deeds, which might at length turn to an Inſurrection, to the utter Ruin and Defeat of this Land, to the Miſery of a People, whoſe Happineſs is envyed by all their Neighbours, and what would render the Calamity yet more intolerable, is the Remorſe occaſioned by the Thought of having drawn this Deſtruction upon ourſelves, by our Folly, by the Contempt of our Laws, and the Overthrow of thoſe whom God's Wiſdom had placed in the higher Stations: May God grant this may never be our Caſe, and keep us all in our ſeveral Stations free from Ambition and Pride, the general Forerunner of a Civil War, that we may lead our Lives in Peace and Quietneſs, under a ſweet and mild Domination, in continual Expectation of a Diſſolution of our mortal Body, and full Aſſurance of an eternal Glory and never ending Bliſs in the World to come.

But, to return to our Caſe, I think, nevertheleſs, that a People independant of, and unconcerned in an Affair, naturally incline to Juſtice, and, conſequently its Declaration in Favour of *Canning* is a good Proof of her Innocence; and as I cannot conceive why ſhe ſhould accuſe an innocent old Woman, whom ſhe had never ſeen before (as *Squires* herſelf poſitively affirms) and againſt whom ſhe could not, therefore, have any Malice or Subject of Complaint, ſo, I cannot imagine why all the People ſhould undertake her Cauſe againſt the Gypſy, who, if innocent, is as unhappy a Creature as any upon Earth; and on the other Side, if *Canning* be not guilty of the Crime for which ſhe ſtands convicted, and under Sentence of Tranſportation, ſhe, after having ſuffered the moſt inhuman Barbarities,

is ſentenced to the cruel Doom of eternal Infamy. Now, from this ariſes this Queſtion, If *Canning* be innocent, why is ſhe convicted of wilful and corrupt Perjury, before the ableſt Judges and Magiſtrates, and by an unblemiſhed Jury? God forbid, that I ſhould ſolve this Queſtion at the Expence of both Judge and Jury, and be one of thoſe, whom the Author of "Miſs *Canning* and the Gypſy," accuſes to have impudently aſſerted, that they were all bribed, or perjured; nor can I believe (if this Aſperſon be true) the Propagators of it to think as they really ſay; at leaſt, for my own Part, I verily believe *Canning* innocent of the Crime laid to her Charge, and *Mary Squires* guilty of the higheſt Pitch of Cruelty levelled againſt a Girl, whom ſhe had never ſeen or known, and yet I'll venture, as boldly to atteſt, before any Man living, that the whole Court, concerned in the Trial of *Canning*, were no more prejudiced in favour of *Squires*, than I am, and, that they all acted according to the Dictates of their Conſcience, and can have no juſt Cauſe to be ſtung with Remorſe; hence it follows, that the Evidence given by *Mary Squires*, and moſt of thoſe who profeſſed themſelves her Friends at the late Trial, was falſe, that ſeveral of them are Perſons whoſe Character and Reputation plainly declare them to be ſacrificed to Bribery and Corruption; or Men whoſe Self-conceit blinds them ſo, that they cannot perceive the Hurt they do themſelves, and what Monſters they muſt unavoidably appear, when the Truth comes to light, to their immortal Infamy! As, for me, I would, by no means, be underſtood to reflect upon any particular Perſon whatever, and it little concerns me, whether *Squires* or *Canning* be guilty: I have given my Opinion from

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the Dictates of my Heart, and ſhall think it no Diſhonour to me, if I ſhould happen to have been impoſed upon by the Story of this Woman; what I have ſaid concerning her is the Product of Humanity, and of a Mind naturally inclined to Charity and Virtue; and I ſincerely wiſh this Affair may be cleared to the Bottom, and the Contrivers of this wicked Deed puniſhed, if poſſible, according to their Deſerts, in order to deter others from ſuch inhuman Acts of Cruelty; in Vindication of what I have here aſſerted, if *Canning* ſhould prove guilty, I ſhall have the Pleaſure to find, that my Opinion has been agreeable to that of a great, and unprejudiced Part of Mankind, who really believe her innocent, and the moſt unfortunate Girl that has ever appeared upon the Theatre of Life; for, if ſhe be falſe, where had ſhe been thoſe twenty-ſeven Days to be uſed thus? If her Mother was in the Secret of her Falſhood, as is ſuſpected, to what can we attribute the Fit ſhe fell in, at the Sight of her, if it was feigned, I think it would have been difficult to hide from the piercing Eyes of a crowded Room, and unprejudiced People, who muſt have ſoon perceived the Treachery.

Upon the whole, we muſt ſuppoſe all the Friends to *Canning*, and all the Gentlemen with whom ſhe had lived, who ſpoke in her Behalf, and enriched her with a delightful good Character, to be Impoſters and Men guilty of the moſt horrid Perjury. And whoever can have the Face to affirm it, muſt certainly be guilty himſelf of thoſe Vices he charges his Fellow-creatures with.

A certain Author has of late compared the Caſe of *Elizabeth Canning* to that of the famous Impoſtor

poſtor called *Richard Hathaway*, the Difference of which I leave to the candid and impartial Reader to determine. However, becauſe he was an Impoſtor, he, without any further Apology, concluded, that *Canning* muſt be ſo too. But I ſhall here afford a Paſſage to his Peruſal, which ſuits better the Character of *Squires* than *Hathaway*'s does that of *Canning*, ſince the chief Heroine was a Woman of her Profeſſion; it was thus inſerted in the public Papers, dated

March 24, 1752.

"A few Days ſince a melancholy Affair happened at a Place called *Long-pariſh*, near *Andover*, in the County of *Hants*; A Gentleman riding by a lonely Houſe, between ſeven and eight in the Evening, imagined he heard the Cry of Murder, at which being greatly alarmed, he rode on to the next Village and put up at a Publick-houſe, where the unhappy Owner was then ſitting. Upon Information of what the Gentleman had heard, they haſtened away immediately to enquire into the Cauſe, and when arrived at the Houſe, found all faſt. No Admiſſion being given, they forced open the Door with an Iron Crow, and the firſt Perſon they met was a Gypſy Woman who held a long Knife in her Hand, and threatned the Life of any one who ſhould oppoſe her. On which the Gentleman took a Piſtol out of his Pocket, and ſhot her through the Head; then they proceeded and found three Men, who had collected together the moſt valuable Part of the Furniture (though the beſt of it was but mean) and were preparing to carry it off, having firſt of all barbarouſly murdered the poor Woman of the Houſe

and

and her two Children; after ſome Reſiſtance they were ſecured."——

An amazing Scene of Cruelty this is, and a ſhocking Inſtance of the Barbarity of that infamous Race called Gypſies; as the Woman was the chief Heroine in that melancholy Affair, ſo is *Mary Squires* in this. The three Men guided by the Gypſy repreſent thoſe who ſeized *Canning* on *Moorfields*, guided by *Squires*; the Woman of the Houſe and her Children repreſent *Canning* and her Family; the barbarous Murder committed on them all, is an Emblem of the Ruin intended for theſe unhappy People; and the Gentleman and others who ſecured theſe Murderers, repreſent the happy Pillars and generous Friends of *Canning* and her Relations.

The following Queries were inſerted in the Pamphlet I have already mentioned, together with their Anſwers, but I ſhall omit the latter, and attempt to ſolve them myſelf.

Query 1. "When any Truth lies for ſome time concealed, through the Cunning and Subtilty of contaminated Minds, what are the moſt orthodox Methods to be taken in ſuch a Caſe, in order to diſperſe the Clouds that ſo long eclipſe Virtue from appearing in her native Beauty?"

Anſwer. The beſt Method is to weigh the Caſe in a ſincere Manner, and to admit every Reaſon that is given on both Sides, in order to compare them together, and rule ourſelves accordingly.

Q. 2. "When in any Tranſaction which concerns the Publick, or Individuals, Truth cannot, at that Juncture, be cleared up to a Demonſtration, what Means are to be uſed, in order to come as nigh this ſalutary Point, as the Circumſtance of Things will admit of?"

A. By comparing the Points and admitting what our Reaſon, guided by Sincerity, ſuggeſts to us in favour of both Sides concerned in an Affair, and by weighing theſe Suggeſtions, we come as nigh the Point as the Circumſtance admits of.

Q. 3. "Is there not (comparatively) as remote a Diſtance between Conſiſtency, which has Reaſon for its Pilot, and Inconſiſtency, which has nothing to guide it, ſave Prejudice, Partiality and Ignorance, as there is between Light and Darkneſs, or betwixt the North and South Poles?"

A. Yes, for the Nature of theſe three Evils forbids a Man to act according to the Dictates of his Reaſon.

Q. 4. "Has *Elizabeth Canning* any one Circumſtance in all her patched-up Account, from the Beginning to the End of her Story to ſupport one Article thereof?"

A. Yes, The Account ſhe gave, the falſe Evidence in favour of *Squires*, the Manner in which ſhe related it, her Character, the ſhocking State ſhe was in at her Arrival at Home, all theſe are Proofs that ſupport all the Articles of her Story.

Q. 5. If the poor old Woman was condemned (though innocent) upon the Oaths of two falſe Evidences

Evidences, to be hanged, what Puniſhment do they merit who ſwear away her Life?"

A. Suppoſing her innocent, the Scripture teaches us, that *he that diggeth a Pit for another ſhall fall therein himſelf*, and therefore they deſerve to ſuffer the Puniſhment they had prepared for her.

Q. 6. "Suppoſing Mrs. *Squires* to have been guilty of a hundred Crimes, for each of which ſhe deſerved to die, is that a ſubſtantial Reaſon that ſhe ſhould be hanged for a Crime, of which ſhe was not guilty?"

A. We cannot judge a Perſon by the Crimes ſhe is ſuppoſed to have been guilty of, but by that, which ſhe was indicted for, and for which ſhe received Sentence of Death; but by the Miſchiefs of her paſt Life, we draw the Concluſion, that ſhe is capable of a much higher Cruelty than that committed againſt *Canning*.

"*Q.* 7. Is it an invincible Proof of *Betty Canning*'s Innocence, to aſſert, that becauſe ſhe has bore a good Character till this Affair happened, that ſhe ſhould be innocent of this Crime, for which ſhe is caſt for Tranſportation? or is *it* a reaſonable Way of arguing to inſiſt, that becauſe a Perſon has, upon a Time, walked in virtuous Paths, that he, or ſhe, will never go aſtray?"

A. Was there but *Canning*'s Character to ſupport her Caſe, I don't believe a ſenſible Perſon would ſet up in her Behalf, though a virtuous Mind is not ſo eaſily overturned, as thoſe who believe her guilty muſt ſuppoſe, and more ſo, ſince we cannot diſcover ſhe reaped any Benefit, by accuſing an old Woman falſly.

"*Q.* 8. Is there not a wide Difference between *Betty Canning*, when ſhe walked virtuouſly, ſoberly honeſtly, and uprightly; and *Betty Canning*, when

ſhe launched into Vice, Diſhoneſty, and unjuſtifiable Schemes?"

A. If *Canning* be guilty, there is a wide Difference betwixt her now, and what ſhe was before. I did not think any Man would have propoſed this Query to a ſenſible Perſon.

Q. 9. "Whether the Scurrility of *Betty Canning*'s prejudiced Advocates, who give out (notwithſtanding her Sentence is paſſed) that ſhe is innocent, that no Harm will come to her, and that they dare not (meaning the Government) puniſh her, ſhall evade the Sentence given againſt her by ſome of the ableſt Judges in the Kingdom?"

A. The admirable Goodneſs of the *Britiſh* Government is the praiſeworthy Caution it takes of the Life and Liberty of a Subject, and, unleſs *Canning* be proved, impartially, to be guilty of the Crime laid to her Charge, we are well aſſured the Mildneſs of our Rules will not execute her Sentence; if ſhe has been proved guilty, we ought to be ſubject to the higher Powers, and fully perſuaded that a much higher Underſtanding than ours has proceeded in her Cauſe

"Q. 10. Is not applying to the Throne in Behalf of *Betty Canning*, to have her Crime mitigated, an unanſwerable Proof of her Guilt? And in the next Place, will not pardoning a Crime of ſuch a deep Dye, which has cauſed ſo much Expence, Heat and Animoſity here, and elſewhere in the Kingdom, be the Means of having ſuch another *Don Quixote*, prepoſterous and uncommon Piece of Villainy to be trumped up by others of the like Stamp?"

A. The ſame Query may be propoſed againſt *Squires*, if applying to the Throne in Favour of *Canning* be a Proof of her Guilt, applying to the Throne

Throne in Favour of *Squires*, muſt alſo be a Proof of her Guilt. But the Reaſon why *Canning*'s Friends endeavour to have her Sentence mitigated is, becauſe they believe her innocent, or are not fully convicted of her Guilt. And no doubt but if ſhe was guilty, the means to propagate ſuch horrid Miſdemeanors, would be to forgive her Crime.

Q. 11. "Does not applying to the crowned Head, in Behalf of one of the greateſt Impoſtors that is upon Record in the *Engliſh* Annals, imply a Belief in the Subject, that the Sovereign will be eaſily prevailed on to pardon Crimes of the deepeſt Dye, and aggravating Circumſtances, which is diametrically oppoſite to his Royal Dignity?"

A. Whether in the preſent Caſe it would produce ſuch a Relief in the Subject or not, I'll not take upon me to determine, ſince there are ſo many Perſons, who, as well as I, believe *Canning* innocent. But was every Man as well aſſured of her Guilt, as the Friends to *Squires*, are, the Pardon of ſuch a Crime would unavoidably draw many ſevere Reflections from a People too much given to Slander and evil Speeches. But whilſt *George* reigns under the bright Sol of Peace and Juſtice, we are well aſſured no ſuch Caſe will ever take Place amongſt us.

As for the twelfth and laſt Query, I leave to a malicious Tongue to conſider it, and ſince the Author has not thought proper to give his own Anſwer; neither ſhall I give mine for a Laughing-Stock to all the Advocates for *Squires*, and ſhall leave to my Reader the Determination of it.

I ſhall end with a Conſideration, that a Reaſon which helps much to diſcover the Falſity of all the malicious Libels publiſhed againſt *Canning* is, that

that amidſt the ſable Veil and dark Mantle of Hypocriſy, which hides them from the true feeling Mind, a Heart, honeſt, but well experienced in the Inſinuations of an evil World, and the Snares of a malicious and corrupted Man, eaſily perceives the monſtrous Shape of Cruelty in its full and tyrannical Force, the Impudence of Bribery, the Trouble of Guilt, the Confuſion of Shame, and the Ignorance of Self-Conceit, and when all theſe Vices joined together take Poſſeſſion of a Man, when he has loſt all Senſe and Cognizance of the End, which he was created for, farewell all Truſt, farewell Honeſty; there is not a Soul upon the Face of the Earth can call itſelf free from the Nets and deſtroying Gripes of a Heart, loſt to himſelf and Country, until the Juſtice and Vengeance of an offended God overtakes him; until Conſcience wakes and caſts him into the Iron Gates of Deſpair, and the ſwallowing Precipices of Madneſs; until he beholds with Horror, the bloody Tragedy and ſhameful Scene he has occaſioned, until his own Hand puts an end to his wretched Being, and he falls a Prey to *Satan* and eternal Death, a dreadful Example to Vice and Cruelty, deteſted of all Mankind, and a Slave to an infamous Memory! I could eaſily cite Examples of this Nature, and extend myſelf farther upon this Subject, but I am afraid to abuſe the Patience of my Reader, and conclnde with this Aſſurance, that I am independent of either Side, unacquainted with either, but perfectly verſed in the Caſe of both; nor ſhould I have undertaken this, had I not had a thorough Knowledge of what is paſt, and made a careful Lecture of what has been printed on both Sides.

F I N I S.